

Special Ad Hoc – Flash Flood of 2009 Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
6:30 P.M.
Third Floor, City Hall

Present:
Co-Chair: CW Green
Co-Chair: CM Johnson
Members: CW Hamilton

ABSENT: CW Welch, CW Ward-Pugh, CM Heiner

Co-Chair Johnson began the meeting by announcing the members and non-members of the committee that were present. A quorum was established.

Special Items For Discussion: Bud Schardein, Metropolitan Sewer District, discusses layout of sewers and retention basins.

INFORMATION ON FLOOD

Bud Schardein, Metropolitan Sewer District, gave a presentation and answered questions. The following was discussed:

- How combined sewer operates – gravity concept
- The largest sewers are in the south and west parts of the city
- 23 feet wide in the south and west, downtown sewers are 10 feet wide
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- Assessment showed 4 damaged sewers as the result of the storm
- Retention basins
 - Position of new basins
- Previous floods 1997, 2006 and 2009 – each affected different part of the city
- Third worst flash flood in history
- 1935 Flood caused National Flood Protection Act
- 1937 Flood was the worst since the turn of the century – that was a river flood
- \$110,000,000 spent in drainage improvements since Metro started
- President Obama has sent new regulations on flood protection
 - Turning urban areas back into green space.
 - MSD will return with full explanation of regulations upon their review
- Consent Decree – from EPA \$850,000,000 being accomplished by bonding
 - EPA will sign off on retention basins – have tentative approval now.
 - Planned basins will store 100,000,000 gallons and prevent backups
 - Locations chosen based on least amount of disruption to neighborhoods
- Three strategies will be used to prevent backup
 - Create green space in urban areas
 - Create new retention basins – all will be complete within 10 years
 - Acquisition of property – this is the last resort
 - New basins in Algonquin, Southwestern, Portland Wharf, 18th and Northwestern Pkwy, 13th and Rowan, Adams Street, Story and Spring Streets, Lexington and Payne Streets, I-64 & Grinstead.
 - Building new sewers to accommodate this type of rain would cost taxpayer \$200/month
- BACKFLOW PREVENTER
 - Stressed by MSD
 - Paid for by MSD

- Plumber determines which type person needs
- Removes anxiety
- Public education of this done by MSD
- MSD has had good response on Backflow Preventers
- 2400 people contacted MSD – 10-12,000 homes affected

CW Hamilton has requested a map of the projects.

The meeting adjourned without objection at 7:25 PM. The next meeting will be September 23 at 6:30 PM.

kjh